

WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



R E P O R T

OF

Medical Officer

FOR THE

YEAR 1903.



Wombwell :
T. M. Thornsby, Printer, Wombwell.

WOMBWELL, JAN. 1904

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting my Annual Report on the Health of your District, giving also the work of the Sanitary Department.

Vital Statistics.

I estimate the population at the middle of 1903 as 13836, supposing the increase to be at the same rate as between 1891 and 1901, and all rates are calculated upon this estimate.

At the end of December 1903, there had been built and occupied 225 houses since the Census, when the number then was 2541; as the averaged number of persons per house may be taken as 5.2, we can reckon the actual population at present to be 14383.

In Table II. will be found further statistics regarding Births and Deaths in the various Wards.

The Deaths registered during the year in the district and public Institutions were 222, (122 male and 100 female). This is 14 less than in 1902, and gives a Deathrate of 16.0 per 1000, comparing favourably with 17.4 in 1902.

The Birthrate is 42.7. In 1902 it was 45; the number registered during the year, consisting of 306 males and 285 females, is 591, being 10 less than the previous year; amongst these were 23 illegitimate births.

It is with pleasure I report our lowest Infantile death-rate since 1894, that year it was 132 per 1000 births; during the last year it was 142, whilst in 1902 it was 170.

Analysis of figures shows this to be due to the decrease in the deaths from Respiratory Diseases (from 35 to 12) and also to the decrease in the number of Premature Births. Unfortunately the advantage is discounted by the increase of Diarrhœa mortality viz from 1 to 9.

The seven principal diseases viz. Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Measles and Whooping-cough, caused 38 deaths, giving a rate of 2.7 per 1000; but if we deduct Diarrhœa and Whooping-cough, which are not notifiable

diseases, and which are responsible for 23 deaths, The Zymotic death-rate is 1·08 per 1000.

The Respiratory rate is much reduced. In 1902 it was 5·1, in 1903 it fell to 2·53 per 1000.

There is not much alteration to note in the Phthisis Rate, being somewhat similar to the previous year; 0·82 and 0·9 being the respective figures.

NOTIFICATIONS of Infectious Diseases are 12 less than last year, viz 67, of these 31 were sent to Hospital. The notification rate is 4·8 per 1000 of the population.

Details of Infectious Diseases.

SMALL-POX.

On 16th, February, I received a notification of a Small-pox case in Jump. In this place there are a considerable number of old houses, sub-let to lodgers, many of whom are but "birds of passage". One of these latter had acquired the disease; he had been resident in Jump one month, but during that time had spent one night in a Wakefield lodging-house, about 14 days before the eruption showed. Probably he was infected there. He had been vaccinated in infancy, but not since. On 11th, March, another notification was received. It was impossible to trace the source of infection, but there was undoubtedly no connection with the former case. He also had only been vaccinated in infancy. Both these cases were promptly sent to Hospital, the bedding and all suspected material, being sent with them for destruction. Both houses were quarantined, and for 14 days the inmates supplied with food. In addition, 10 adults in these and adjoining houses, and 3 children were vaccinated. No more cases occurred.

Enteric Fever.

From March 9th, to November 12th, 13 cases of the above were notified, most of which were mild cases. Two however died in Kendray Hospital, to which Institution 11 out of the 13 had been sent. To trace the origin of these was difficult, there was no community of food, and except in two localities, a wide difference of environment. Here, personal contact produced in one instance 1 case, and in another 2 more; but the original cases were separated by months of time, and were situated 2 miles from each other, The eating of raw shellfish at a holiday resort, seemed to have been the cause of 2 cases; and defective house drainage was associated with other 2. The following are the months and Wards of the incidence.

	South West.	South East.	North,	Central.	Heming- field,
March	1	1			
May	1				
August			1	1	
October		2	4		
November					2

Scarlet Fever.

There were 35 cases of Scarlet Fever but only 1 death. Fewer cases were notified than in 1902. The disease was continued from the previous year, and no month of 1903 has been without a case, only 2 however occurring in December. Isolation at home and in Hospital, as strictly as possible, has been carried out ; in several instances when the disease seemed quelled. it was again revived by outside influences beyond my control.

Measles.

Had a lingering prevalence for 3 or 4 months, although I think we had not so many cases as in 1902. We had more deaths, 2 occurring in 1902 and 5 in 1903,

Diarrhœa

In its Epidemic form caused 9 deaths under 1 year, and 7 between 1 and 5. Climatic conditions this year were not favourable to its incidence. I wish it was more generally recognised that "Filth" introduced into a child's stomach through milk or other food, is responsible in a great measure for the mortality of Infantile Diarrhœa.

Workshops (1901 Act).

There are in the district 37 Workshops. These include 9 retail Bake-houses. Two are underground ; one required no alteration, but the other, to bring into line with the requirements of Sect. 101 (2), has had the ventilation altered, the floors re-laid with cemented joints, the walls and ceilings cemented, a drain destroyed and all communication with the sewer cut off. The remainder of the Workshops (28) are where Millinery, Dressmaking, Boot Repairing, &c. are carried on in ordinary dwelling-houses, with the usual ventilations by doors and windows ; Printing, Joinery, and Plumbing are carried on in good Workshops.

No Nuisances have been reported in connection with the above, nor has any Infectious Disease occurred amongst the workers.

Sanitary Matters.

The Sanitary Committee, at their monthly meetings had brought before them 92 Nuisances (and other subjects requiring their attention) 90 of which have been abated.

It was found necessary to serve 18 legal notices; their requirements were all complied with.

Special improvements have been made on various Properties in Ship Croft and George Square ; old pigstyes were demolished, sanitary conveniences reconstructed, and yards partly pitched.

The Wombwell Main Co. have made much needed changes by re-constructing some, and constructing other new conveniences to their cottages; and an insanitary block in Alma Street, long an eyesore and nuisance has been removed and W.C's, substituted.

Scavenging.

I have had no complaints made regarding this. Irregularities, which cannot be avoided do arrive, but the method of employing the Council's own staff, and horses answers admirably. I hope Contracting is a thing of the past. The Sanitary Inspector reports that 8534 Ashpits were emptied and 9291 loads of their contents removed.

The number of new Houses erected and occupied in 1903, was 104.

Overcrowding has had more attention than usual this year. In certain districts the Sanitary Inspector visited 90 houses and dealt with 10 cases, caused by keeping 'lodgers'.

Sewerage.

There have been laid in the district 822 yards of new Sewers and Drains, chiefly in Rimington Road and Littlefield. Two other districts viz. Sunnybank in Jump, and part of Wombwell Main will shortly have new sewers laid to connect them with the chief system.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN N. MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Wombwell Urban District,—Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years,

Names of Localities.	South-East.				South-West.				Central.				North,				Hemingfield			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1901 ..	2833	109	54	20	2197	103	62	19	2424	115	69	32	2680	107	51	25	3182	122	66	25
1902 ...	2887	143	49	22	2239	98	34	16	2471	111	41	18	2732	124	55	19	3244	134	57	29
1903 ...	2943	125	55	18	2283	118	36	10	2519	99	45	16	2785	113	39	18	3306	136	47	22

Wombwell Urban District- -Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District. At Ages—Years.							Total cases notified in each locality		Number of cases removed to Hospital from each locality.							
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	South-East,	South West	Central.	North.	Hemingfield.	South-East,	South West	Central,	North,	Hemingfield,
Small-pox	...					2						2					2
Cholera	...											2					
Diphtheria	...		2	1								2					
Membranous croup	...		6			6	1					3					1
Erysipelas	...											2					
Scarlet Fever	..		11	22	1	1		2	11	6	12	4		6	5	6	
Typhus fever	...																
Fever, Enteric	...			3		10		3	2	1	5	2	3	2	1	3	2
Relapsing fever	...																
Continued fever	...											1					
Puerperal fever	...					1											
Plague	...																
Totals			19	26	1	20	1	7	20	9	17	14	3	8	6	9	5

WOMBWELL URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							South-East.	South West	Central.	North.	Hemingfield.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards						
Measles ...	7	2	5					3	1			3	1
Scarlet Fever ...													
Whooping-cough...	8	3	5					3	2	1	1	1	2
Diphtheria & membranous croup ...	4		4					1	3				
Fever, Enteric ...													
Diarrhœa ...	16	9	7					5	1	1	4	5	
Enteritis ...	5	4	1					2		1	2		1
Puerperal fever ...	1					1						1	
Phthisis ...	11			1	2	8		3	1	4	1	2	
Other tubercular diseases ...	7	4	1	2				2	2	2		1	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7					6	1	2		2	2	1	2
Bronchitis ...	24	9	7	1		6	1	3	5	7	3	6	
Pneumonia ..	11	3	5		1	1	1	1	1	5	2	2	
Alcoholism	2					2		1			1		
Cirrhosis of liver													1
Premature birth ...	11	11						2	3	1	4	1	
Diseases&accidents of parturition ...	3				1	2		1			1	1	
Heart diseases ...	9			1	3	4	1	4	2			3	
Accidents ...	5	1	1			3			2	2		1	1
Suicides ...	2				1	1					1	1	2
In Asylum ...													
All other causes ...	83	38	9	3	2	13	18	20	13	19	17	14	
All causes ...	216	84	45	8	10	47	22	53	36	45	39	43	6